

J. A. H. is a NATO postdoctoral fellow. P. J. N. D. is an SRC postdoctoral fellow.

J. A. HOFFMAN

*X-ray Astronomy Group,
Department of Physics,
University of Leicester*

P. J. N. DAVISON

*Mullard Space Science Laboratory,
University College, London*

L. V. MORRISON

*Nautical Almanac Office,
Royal Greenwich Observatory*

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looked to be a serious optical candidate has been shown² to possess no unusual properties which could indicate that it had a strong X-ray emission.

Recently the original X-ray data have been checked and the discovery of a timing error has resulted in a shift of about 2.5 s (RA) in the MSSL position. This is equivalent to moving the intersection position about 1 arc min along the Leicester error box; the new position is shown in Fig. 1.

There is no optical object in the new overlap position; Kunkel's objects "2" and "3" (ref. 3) lie too far away to be considered. A search for a radio counterpart at the Leiden Observatory (G. K. Miley, private communication) has shown that a weak source (11 ± 4 m.f.u. at 1,415 MHz) exists at RA 17 h 44 min 50.15 \pm 0.2 s, Dec—26° 33.0' \pm 0.25' (1950). This source, with its 2 σ error bars, is shown in Fig. 1. It is very close to the centre of the error box quoted by Schnopper *et al.*⁴ and is of similar strength to possible radio candidates for GX5-1 (10 ± 3 m.f.u.)⁵ and Cyg X-1 (24 ± 4 m.f.u.)⁶.

A. F. JANES
K. A. POUNDS
M. J. RICKETTS

*X-Ray Astronomy Group,
Department of Physics,
University of Leicester*

A. P. WILLMORE*

*Mullard Space Science Laboratory,
University College, London*

L. V. MORRISON

*Nautical Almanac Office,
Royal Greenwich Observatory,
Herstmonceux Castle,
Hailsham, Sussex*

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* Present address: Department of Space Research, University of Birmingham.

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Correction to the Position of GX3+1

We have previously given the results of two lunar occultations¹ of the X-ray source GX3+1. Only two optical objects were nearby, both outside the error box. The only one of these which

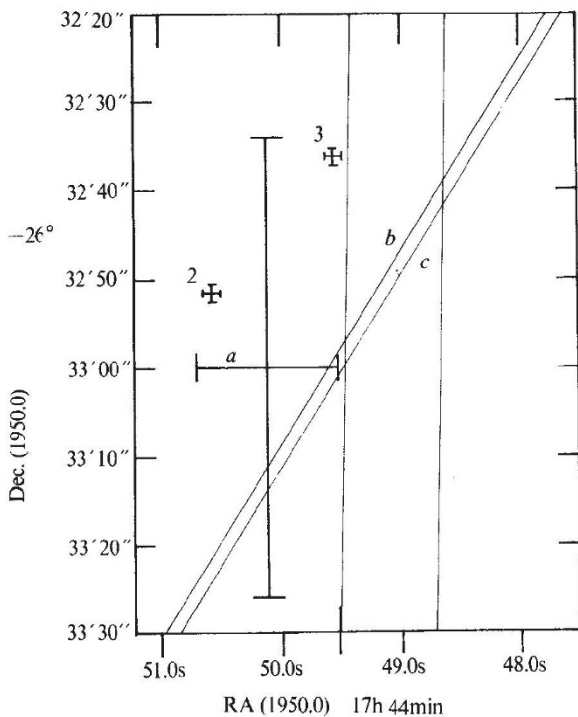


Fig. 1 The lines represent the 2 σ error limits of the positions of the source obtained from each experiment; the radio and optical sources also have error limits of 2 σ shown to their positions. *a*, Radio source; 2 and 3, Kunkel's objects³; *b*, Leicester observations; *c*, MSSL observations.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Effects of Contraceptive Pill Constituents on Foetal Mouse Hearts

ALTHOUGH the use of the contraceptive pill carries a slight risk, it is generally felt that the harmful side effects are outweighed by the benefit of avoiding unwanted pregnancies. Following the thalidomide tragedy, there is a wider appreciation of the risk of substances taken during pregnancy injuring the foetus. As we now have a direct method of studying the action of drugs